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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR 1903

FINANCES

The Report of the Treasurer for the year ending December 31, shows in detail the receipts and disbursements of income, and also the endowment funds and the manner of their investment by the Finance Committee.

At the end of each year a Budget is carefully prepared by the Director and Treasurer and approved by the Trustees.

Economical management has enabled the Administration to keep within the appropriations.

A considerable part of the Rogers Bequest has been delivered by the Executors to the Treasurer, and the balance will soon be paid. Until the unproductive real estate and securities are converted into interest bearing securities, no accurate estimate of annual income can be arrived at.

The Trustees desire to keep before the Members of the Corporation and the public the fact that the income of the Rogers Fund is restricted to the purchase of rare and desirable art objects, and books for the Library, and that no part of the income can be used for other purposes.

There is a great need of additional income for salaries and wages, catalogues, and for increased cost of maintenance involved in the installation of collections in the new building.

VISITORS

At the end of 1902, the number of persons who visited the Museum was 663,197, showing an increase of 69,251 visitors over the previous year. On the 31st of December of this year our turnstiles have recorded 802,900, being an increase of 139,708 from 1902.

The turnstile record-book of the Museum shows that 12,107,597 persons visited the institution from March 30, 1880, to December 31, 1903. Prior to March 30, 1880, no registering turnstiles existing at the Museum, the visitors were counted daily by the attendants employed for that purpose, but no record was kept of the number.

ANNUAL MEMBERS

During 1903, the Museum has lost by death, resignation, and removal from the City, 188 members; yet during the year we obtained 218 new ones, which not only replaced the lost ones, but added 30 more to our list of members.

Last year the total number of members was 2,223, as stated in the annual report. This year the total number is 2,253.

EDUCATIONAL WORK

The collections of the Museum continue to attract a large number of classes from colleges and private schools from all parts of this State, among which there was one of one hundred and nineteen cadets from West Point under the guidance of several officers, in charge of Colonel Charles W. Larned, Professor of the Military Academy, who spent most of the day examining, studying the collections and taking notes.

These classes usually come to the Museum during good weather in the autumn and winter.

The Department of Paintings has issued to art students 211 permits to copy, and the pictures copied by them during the year was 484.

In the other departments 174 permits were issued.

The number of classes of art students from schools and colleges that visited the Museum was seventy-three.

WILLIAM E. DODGE

In the past year the Museum has again suffered a very heavy loss by the death of Mr. William E. Dodge, one of its most active Trustees, who for a great number of years helped the institution in every way possible.

A Special Committee was appointed to prepare the following resolution, which Mr. John S. Kennedy presented, read, and was unanimously adopted:

Mr. William E. Dodge, First Vice President of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, died on August 9, 1903, after more than a quarter of a century's continuous service as Trustee, during the last of which he was Chairman of its most important Committee. We, his surviving associates, desire to enter upon our records this minute relating to one who was so universally beloved, and who, during an active, useful and eventful life, did so much for his fellow men.

Mr. Dodge was born in New York in 1832, and after completing his education entered the office of Phelps, Dodge & Co., in this City, a firm founded by his grandfather, and of which his father was a member. When still comparatively young he was admitted to partnership, and finally became the head of the firm, a connection which only terminated with his death.

Notwithstanding his engrossing business duties, and the great variety and multiplicity of his business interests, from an early period in his life he took a deep interest in all the prominent movements of his time, and especially in those of a religious, philanthropic and educational character, giving liberally both of his time and means to every object that had in view the elevation of his fellow men. His sound judgment and valuable counsel were constantly in demand and were fully given.

He became a Trustee of the Museum in May, 1876, and from his first connection with it took an active and prominent part in the management of its affairs, serving on almost every one of its committees in turn, and giving largely both of his time and money for the promotion of its interests.

He was elected a member of the Executive Committee in 1878, and remained such, with brief interval, until his death, at which time he had been for more than five years its Chairman.

Our Museum, which received for over twenty-five years such large measure of thoughtful care from Mr. Dodge, was only one of the multifarious forms of public work to which he devoted himself.

Nothing short of an enumeration of the more important positions he held at the time of his death can give any adequate conception of the scope of his activities. They were:

Vice President and Trustee of the American Museum of Natural History.

Member of Executive Committee and Trustee of the New York Botanical Garden.

Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce.

President of the Board of Trustees of the Young Men's Christian Association.

President of the Evangelical Alliance.

Trustee of the Union Theological Seminary.

Chairman of the National Arbitration Committee.

Vice President of the School of Practical Agriculture and Horticulture.

Trustee of the New York Trade School.

Trustee of the Carnegie Institution at Washington.

Trustee of the Slater Fund.

Trustee of the Havens Fund.

Trustee of the Provident Loan Society.

However great was Mr. Dodge's usefulness to our own and to other institutions on the business side, it was even greater on the side of genial sympathy and interest. It is as a companion and friend that we, in common with so many others, must feel our loss. And he will be missed by a still larger circle of those to whom he stood not merely as a friend, but as a helper on whom they could rely in any time of trouble, for his ear was always open to the cry of distress and suffering, and he was always ready to give effective aid.

By order of the Trustees,

F. W. RHINELANDER,

President.

L. P. DI CESNOLA, *Secretary.*

New York, January 25, 1904.